

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

New and improved systems and methods for producing and processing self-contained software systems such as web based applications, web sites, open-standards based applications, etc. In particular the present invention provides a self-contained software package that is adapted to be automatically processed within a network client environment. The self-contained software package includes, but is not limited to, a manifest including meta-data about the self-contained software package, and at least one reference to an initial content source. The initial content source includes instructions related to a particular intended functionality such as that corresponding to a web site, open-standards application, etc. The manifest and reference(s) to the initial content source are automatically received by and processed within a network client environment (e.g., a world wide web – WWW browser). The initial content source is configured to control the network client environment in accordance with the instructions to achieve the intended functionality. The invention also provides a method of using a browser to facilitate retrieval and processing of a self-contained software application without otherwise accessing network server system(s).